

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A switch fabric implemented on a chip includes an array  
of cells and an I/O interface in communication with the  
array of cells for permitting exchange of data packets  
between the array of cells and components external to the  
array of cells. Each cell communicates with at least one  
other cell of the array, permitting an exchange of data  
packets between the cells of the array and an exchange of  
10 control information between the cells of the array. Each  
cell is operative to control transmission of data packets  
to other cells of the array at least in part on a basis  
of the control information. The control information is  
thus used to regulate the flow of data packets between  
15 cells.

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